

FOR 26 OCTOBER 1987.

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: CRACKDOWN IN KOSOVO

THE COLLECTIVE STATE PRESIDENCY EARLY YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED "EXTRAORDINARY" SECURITY MEASURES IN ETHNICALLY TROUBLED KOSOVO PROVINCE, INCLUDING ORDERING ELITE FEDERAL POLICE UNITS INTO THE REGION FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE MOVE COMES IN THE WAKE OF CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS BY KOSOVO'S MINORITY SERBS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BY THE ETHNIC ALBANIAN MAJORITY DESPITE A DEMAND BY BELGRADE LAST WEEK THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS CEASE. KOSOVO'S LARGELY ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP TEAM LAST WEEK RESPONDED TO FEDERAL PRESSURE TO STEER ALBANIAN NATIONALISM BY PURGING SEVERAL ALBANIAN OFFICIALS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE PRESIDENCY PROBABLY IS TRYING TO PREEMPT ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND ALMOST CERTAINLY INTENDS NO NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN. LEFT UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER THE SUDDEN MOVE YESTERDAY WILL PROMOTE STABILITY OR LEAD TO GREATER UNREST. WHILE CRACKDOWNS ON ALBANIAN NATIONALISTS COULD LEAD TO VIOLENT BACKLASH, A SUPPRESSION OF SERBS IS MORE LIKELY TO ESCALATE VIOLENCE AND DIVIDE FURTHER THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. MILITARY LEADERS PROBABLY PUSHED FOR THE INTERVENTION TO PRECLUDE IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW, BUT THE MILITARY IS LIKELY TO INTERVENE IF THE POLICE UNITS PROVE INEFFECTIVE. ANY CRACKDOWN COULD LEAD TO WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND COMPLICATE YUGOSLAV

~~SECRET~~

DEBT TALKS WITH THE WEST. [REDACTED]